

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

<h1 style="margin: 0;">FSIS NOTICE</h1>	05-06	1/18/06
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**RE-EXAMINATION OF BOVINE THAT BECOME NON-AMBULATORY
AFTER PASSING ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION**

This notice provides inspection program personnel with clarification instructions related to FSIS Notice 5-04, **Interim Guidance for Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle and Age Determination**.

NOTE: FSIS Notice 5-04 had an expiration date of February 1, 2005. Prior to the expiration date FSIS extended the date of expiration until February 1, 2006. On January 17, 2006, FSIS extended the expiration date of FSIS Notice 5-04 until February 1, 2007.

It is the Public Health Veterinarians' (PHVs) role to distinguish between true acute injuries that occur after the animal has passed ante-mortem inspection and final manifestations of underlying chronic conditions. As noted in FSIS Notice 5-04, acute injuries occurring after the animal has passed ante-mortem inspection should be an extremely rare occurrence.

In case an otherwise normal, healthy animal that has passed ante-mortem inspection and that is on its way to the knock box suffers an acute injury (e.g., when an animal falls or when an animal has a leg that gets trapped and broken), paragraph III.D. of FSIS Notice 5-04 provides that the PHV should verify that the animal suffered such an acute injury and allow the animal to proceed to slaughter and post-mortem inspection. PHVs are to continue to follow this instruction. They are, however, to tag the cattle as "U.S. Suspect." The application of a "U.S. Suspect" tag will help better track the occurrence of such situations and the disposition of such animals.

If the PHV cannot determine that a bovine that became non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection suffered a specific, acute injury, the bovine is to be tagged as "U.S. Condemned" and cannot enter the slaughter establishment. This includes bovine previously inspected and passed for antemortem with restrictions

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(i.e., bearing the “U.S. Suspect” tag) that later become non-ambulatory. If, in the professional opinion of the PHV, the injury was precipitated by a chronic condition, then the animal is to be tagged “U.S. Condemned.”

The PHV is to completely and accurately document all observations on FSIS Form 6150-1, “Identification Tag – Ante-mortem,” for each bovine re-examined because it became non-ambulatory after passing ante-mortem inspection. The observations documented on FSIS Form 6150-1 should support the decision to tag the bovine as “U.S. Suspect” or, ultimately, as “U.S. Condemned.” PHVs are to complete the bottom section of Form 6150-1 following post-mortem inspection for bovine slaughtered as “U.S. Suspects.”

Also, the PHV is to record the post-mortem disposition of each re-examined bovine on FSIS Form 6200-14, “Daily Disposition Record,” including the reason for the re-examination. The associated FSIS Form 6150-1 should be attached to the FSIS Form 6200-14 to support the disposition. The PHV also is to enter the disposition information in eADRS under the appropriate animal subclass and condition.

Any questions should be referred to the Technical Service Center at 1-800-233-3935.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy S. Duff", is positioned above the typed name and title.

Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development